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MEMORANDUM FOR:

FE/PP

SUBJECT : Comment on Summary of PSB D-23, dated
19 August 1953

1. These comments are offered as a basis for discussion of the subject paper in the PSB panel scheduled for 1430 hours on 21 August 1953. Recognizing that this paper has already received wide consideration, these comments are not vigorously urged, but merely offered for appropriate use, if any.

2. While this staff considers this paper to be a generally adequate basis for a program concept for covert operations in and from it might be made more helpful in this respect by some specific tightening. Certain general comment and analysis are offered in paragraph 3, below. Paragraph 4 will convert such comments into specific suggestion for amendment.

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3. The general foundation of purpose and reason, as set forth in Section II of this paper, is adequately stated. However, Section III, "Proposed Psychological Strategy Plan," might well include some minor modifications which would make it stronger in spurring the action contemplated.

a. Phase I, as outlined, is essentially the stabilization of the immediate locality, both for the intrinsic purpose of holding for the West and for the preliminary step of assuring it as a base for the outward extension of the action to come in Phase II. With specific reference to covert operations under Phase I, it would assist this Agency to have a more specific recognition, as a distinguishable purpose and target of the section of the International Communist world mechanism, and of the necessity for pinpointed covert counteraction. The draft language in paragraph 4, below, suggests a coverage of this point.

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b. As an additional consideration, involving both Phase I and Phase II: Phase II is apparently an operational stage, but required planning for Phase II is mentioned only under the Phase II heading.

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